

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BERLIN 01358 01 OF 02 231715Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-12 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02  
SS-15 TRSE-00 EB-08 OMB-01 HA-05 /094 W  
-----001456 231941Z /40

R 231658Z FEB 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6793  
INFO USIA WASHDC  
AMEMBASSY WARSAW  
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST  
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
AMEMBASSY SOFIA  
USMISSION USBERLIN  
USMISSION USNATO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 BERLIN 01358

E.O.11652: N/A  
TAGS: PGOV, GE  
SUBJECT: HONECKER'S SPEECH TO SED KREIS FIRST  
SECRETARIES: INTERNAL POLITICS

REF: BERLIN 1306

1. SUMMARY: IN HIS SPEECH TO SED KREIS FIRST  
SECRETARIES FEBRUARY 17 HONECKER PRAISED SED INTERNAL  
POLICIES IN MANY FIELDS, BUT ALSO CHIDED HIS AUDIENCE  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BERLIN 01358 01 OF 02 231715Z

FOR NOT DOING ENOUGH IN THE AREAS OF PUBLIC SCHOOL  
TEACHING, CULTURE, POLICE AND DEFENSE, AND YOUTH. IT  
IS CLEAR THAT HE WAS GIVING THE PARTY THE WORD THAT  
MORE STRENUOUS EFFORTS ARE EXPECTED FROM PARTY WORKING  
LEVELS IN THESE AREAS IN THE MONTHS TO COME. END  
SUMMARY.

2. TEACHING. CITING THE UPCOMING 8TH PEDAGOGICAL CONGRESS TO BE HELD IN BERLIN IN OCTOBER, HONECKER IMPLIED THAT THE CURRENT QUALITY OF IDEOLOGICAL TEACHING IN GDR PUBLIC SCHOOLS IS INADEQUATE. HE CALLED FOR HIS AUDIENCE TO STRENGTHEN THEIR EFFORTS TO GIVE TEACHERS "A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF THE SOCIALIST REVOLUTION IN THE GDR AND ITS PERSPECTIVES" AND TO CREATE A MORE RECEPTIVE ATMOSPHERE IN THE SCHOOLS FOR THE PROPAGATION OF SOCIALIST DOCTRINE. THIS STATEMENT HAS BEEN ECHOED IN SEVERAL RECENT ARTICLES IN PARTY JOURNALS WHICH CRITICIZE THE LEVEL OF IDEOLOGICAL COMMITMENT AND TRAINING OF PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS IN THE GDR AND CALL FOR INCREASED PARTY ATTENTION TO THIS PROBLEM.

3. CULTURE. HONECKER PRAISED THE "QUALITY OF SOCIALIST LITERATURE AND ART" STEMMING FROM THE CULTURAL POLICIES OF THE 8TH SED CONGRESS. WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING THAT "NOT ALL ARTISTS ARE MARXISTS-LENINISTS" HE REAFFIRMED THE CENTRAL POSITION OF SOCIALIST REALIST ART IN THE CULTURAL PROGRAM OF THE SED. IN REFERRING TO THE GREAT RESPONSE FROM THE POPULATION TO THE CURRENT 8TH ALL-GDR ART EXHIBITION IN DRESDEN, HE DENOUNDED "WESTERN PROPAGANDA LIES" CONCERNING THE ALLEGED DESOLATION AND DRYING UP OF THE CULTURE LANDSCAPE IN THE GDR. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 BERLIN 01358 01 OF 02 231715Z

HOWEVER, HE ALSO NOTED THAT "SOME WRITERS AND ARTISTS DO NOT CORRECTLY UNDERSTAND THE CLASS CHARACTER OF OUR POLICY" AND THAT POLITICAL MISTAKES RESULT THEREFROM. HE TASKED HIS AUDIENCE TO "DEEPEN THE UNDERSTANDING OF WRITERS AND ARTISTS OF THE CHARACTER OF THE CLASS STRUGGLE BETWEEN SOCIALISM AND IMPERIALISM AND TO FURTHER CLARIFY THE ROLE WHICH LITERATURE AND ART PLAY IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SOCIALIST SOCIETY," ADDING THAT DISCUSSIONS WITH AND AMONG WRITERS SHOULD TAKE PLACE PRIMARILY IN ARTISTS' ORGANIZATIONS. IT SEEMS APPARENT THAT THE PARTY LEADERSHIP IS STILL NOT SATISFIED WITH THE DEGREE OF POLITICAL CONFORMITY OF EAST GERMAN ARTISTS DESPITE THE RECENT EXPULSION OF MANY DISSIDENT WRITERS AND THAT HONECKER IS DEMONSTRATING THAT THE SED HAS NO INTENTION OF EASING UP ON ITS IDEOLOGY-ORIENTED POLICIES IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

4. POLICE AND DEFENSE. WHILE PROCLAIMING THE GDR'S DESIRE FOR DISARMAMENT, HONECKER CALLED FOR GREATER VIGILANCE IN PRESERVING THE SECURITY OF THE COUNTRY FROM THE "ATTACKS OF CLASS ENEMIES ON THE STATE

BORDERS OF THE GDR", WHICH HE SAID HAVE INCREASED.  
IN THIS REGARD HE ALLEGED THERE HAD BEEN SIXTY-NINE  
HUNDRED PROVOCATIONS FROM THE TERRITORY OF THE FRG  
AND SIXTEEN THOUSAND FROM WEST BERLIN SINCE 1973.  
STRESSING THE IMPORTANCE OF CIVIL DEFENSE, SECURITY  
AND DEFENSE FORCES, HE CHARGED HIS AUDIENCE  
TO "STRENGTHEN THE CLASS POSITION AND THE BATTLE  
READINESS OF THE MEMBERS OF THE DEFENSE AND  
SECURITY ORGANS" AND TO "SUPPORT THE READINESS OF ALL  
COMMUNISTS" ON THEIR BEHALF. HE STATED THAT THE FIRST  
PRINCIPLE IS THAT THE "AUTHORITY OF THE PEOPLE'S

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BERLIN 01358 02 OF 02 231751Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-12 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02  
SS-15 TRSE-00 EB-08 OMB-01 HA-05 /094 W  
-----002014 231941Z /40

R 231658Z FEB 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6794  
INFO USIA WASHDC  
AMEMBASSY WARSAW  
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST  
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
AMEMBASSY SOFIA  
USMISSION USBERLIN  
USMISSION USNATO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 02 OF 02 BERLIN 01358

POLICE IS AS FRIEND AND HELPER OF THE POPULACE IN THE  
TRUEST SENSE OF THE WORD" AND CALLED FOR IMPROVEMENTS  
IN THE POSITION OF CAREER SOLDIERS IN THE GDR.

5. YOUTH. IN A LENGTHY SECTION OF HIS SPEECH  
HONECKER PRAISED GDR YOUTH AND YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS,

BUT IMPLIED THAT THE PARTY IS FALLING SHORT OF ITS ABILITY TO WIN THE HEARTS AND MINDS OF YOUNG EAST GERMANS. HONECKER IMPLIED THAT THIS IS NOT A FAILURE OF IDEOLOGY BUT DUE TO LACK OF EFFORT. HE SAID THAT "THERE ARE ENOUGH GOOD ARGUMENTS" BUT THAT IT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BERLIN 01358 02 OF 02 231751Z

IS A MATTER OF USING THEM EFFECTIVELY AND WISELY. COMRADES "SHOULD HELP YOUNG PEOPLE TO FIND THE RIGHT WAY IN THE COMPLICATED SITUATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CLASS STRUGGLE, TO POSSESS A CLEARER PICTURE OF THE ENEMY AND AT ALL TIMES TO BE PREPARED TO WORK FOR SOCIALISM AND TO DEFEND IT." YOUTH AND YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS HAVE LONG BEEN A PARTICULAR INTEREST OF HONECKER'S AND IT SEEMS APPARENT HE IS CURRENTLY DISSATISFIED WITH THE EFFECTIVENESS OF PARTY PROGRAMS TO REACH AND ATTRACT THE COUNTRY'S YOUNG PEOPLE.

6. IN A LENGTHY PERORATION HONECKER CALLED FOR GREATER "REVOLUTIONARY DISCIPLINE, PREPAREDNESS AND DARING". IN REVIEWING GERMAN HISTORY HE SAID THAT "THE TERMS 'FATHERLAND' AND 'NATION' HAVE TAKEN ON A NEW MEANING WHICH WILL BE ACHIEVED THROUGH SOCIALISM". HE DENOUNDED NATIONALISM AND REACTION IN THE FRG AND REAFFIRMED THAT THE "EXISTENCE AND CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT OF THE GDR IS AN EXAMPLE OF THE TRIUMPH AND HISTORICAL INEVITABILITY OF SOCIALISM OVER IMPERIALISM." POLANSKY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REPORTS, SPEECHES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 23 feb 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978BERLIN01358  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780084-0663  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** BERLIN  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780224/aaaaauco.tel  
**Line Count:** 203  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 9a6e9ed1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 BERLIN 1306  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 05 may 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** N/A  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3511317  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** HONECKER'S SPEECH TO SED KREIS FIRST SECRETARIES: INTERNAL POLITICS  
**TAGS:** PGOV, GC  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/9a6e9ed1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014